

24 April 2026

Medical Expert Reports

Through the F.O.I, I would like to know did the Department of health make a contract with solicitors or certain legal firms to pay for expert reports for patients making compensation claims for patients of Neurologist Michael Watt.? How many cases have been dropped by plaintiffs? How many of these cases were women?

How many different experts were paid for by DOH and how much has been paid to solicitors or legal firms on expert reports?

Can you give a list of legal firms or solicitors that participated with DOH or BSO with such a scheme.

If that is the case who choose the medical experts?

Was there any vetting carried out to check the credentials of these experts.

Was there any incentives offered to certain solicitors or legal firms?

The reason for this request is that so many compensations are being struck out of court due to the expert reports being strong enough.

Many cases have been struck out of court either due to women being told the reports were not strong enough .Women feel they are pressured by their legal representatives to drop their cases. Some say they feel pressured .

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust does not hold information to respond to the questions above.

As the information requested relates to the Department of Health (DOH) and Business Services Organisation (BSO), you should redirect your request to those organisations – see email addresses below:

FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

Foi.bso@hscni.net